

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2023-24 COURSE REGISTRATION - PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION (PCIS)¹

COURSE	LAW 309 Law of Evidence
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTORS	Joel Oliphant & Michael P. Doherty
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2024
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITE	LAW 309 is a required prerequisite for LAW 356 Advocacy LAW 309 is a recommended prerequisite for LAW 350 Law Centre LAW 309 is a recommended pre- or corequisite for LAW 355 Legal Skills

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The law of evidence is fundamental to litigation and knowledge of it is fundamental to an advocate's skillset. In both civil litigation and criminal prosecutions, evidence is adduced that forms the factual basis for adjudicative decisions. The rules and procedures for introducing evidence are complex, and objections can be made on a variety of grounds. This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the law of evidence in the litigation context.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to prepare students for legal practise by providing a practical introduction to the most important evidentiary concepts, forms of evidence, alternatives to evidence, evidentiary objections, relevant statutes, the roles of trial judges and appellate courts, and related topics.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Instruction will be by way of lectures, skill development exercises, and class discussion.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

In each class except for the first (January 8) and last (April 8), there will be a weekly written question based upon the readings done in preparation for each class, with each one worth 1% of the final grade, for a total of 10% of the final grade. These will require very short (usually one word, or one sentence) answers.

In each class except for the first, there will be assignments that involve both a written (20% of the final grade) and an oral (20% of the final grade) component. Each student will do one of these assignments in the course of the term. This will typically involve a simulation of a situation that would be encountered in legal practise, such as responding to a request from senior counsel for briefing on a point of law or making argument to a judge about the admissibility or inadmissibility of a particular piece of evidence.

A 3-hour, in-person, open book final examination will be worth 50% of the final grade.

June 2023

¹ The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, Law Student Services (law.studentservices@uvic.ca).